

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action/Discussion Item:**

Waiver for Daviess County Schools' Potential Commonwealth Diploma Recipients

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

704 KAR 3:340; KRS 156.070; KRS 156:160

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) grant a waiver to the Daviess County Public Schools to allow granting a Commonwealth Diploma to students who completed a combination of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses?

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** 704 KAR 3:340 establishes the Commonwealth Diploma program, an initiative that enables districts to award a special recognition from the Kentucky Department of Education to students who complete a defined set of rigorous criteria (see Attachment A for list of requirements).

The requirements include students completing either a specified set of Advanced Placement (AP) courses **or** a specified set of International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Daviess County's Apollo High School offers both AP and IB programs in their school, and has requested a waiver of 704 KAR 3:304 to allow their students who have a combination of the AP and IB courses to be eligible for receipt of a Commonwealth Diploma. A copy of the letter is attached (Attachment B) that includes the names of ten students affected.

KRS 156.160 (2) provides that upon receipt of a local board of education or school council through the local superintendent, the KBE may waive one of its regulations when circumstances are demonstrated that may include the following:

- An alternative approach will achieve the same result required by the regulation;
- Implementation of the regulation will cause hardship on the school district or school or jeopardize the continuation or development of programs, or
- There is a finding of good cause for the waiver.

#### **Staff Recommendations and Rationale:**

Staff recommends granting the waiver to allow these students to receive a Commonwealth Diploma by using a combination of AP and IB courses, as this alternative approach will achieve the same result of recognizing rigorous course work required by the regulation.

#### **Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

The Commonwealth Diploma program encourages students to take rigorous high school courses that are designed to lead to success in postsecondary pursuits.

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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